

EXPLORER

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Annapolis Royal's Links to The Prince of Wales

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In addition to a colourful, shared heritage with Great Britain, Annapolis Royal, NS also has many direct ties to The Royal Family.

Over half of the buildings in Annapolis Royal are either Federal, Provincial or Municipal registered heritage properties. In 2006, Annapolis Royal was honoured with the Prince of Wales Award for outstanding stewardship of the built heritage.

Prince Charles' great-great-great-great grandfather, Prince Edward the Duke of Kent, built the Officers' Quarters at Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal in 1797 while serving as commander of the British forces in Nova Scotia. The Officers' Quarters he erected now serve as the museum building at Fort Anne, Canada's oldest National Historic Site.

One of the highlights of Fort Anne NHS today is the 8' tall x 18' wide Heritage Tapestry. It was stitched by over 120 volunteers to commemorate 400 years of European settlement in our region and was over 4 years in the making. During this time, in 1994, His Royal Highness' mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was on her way to Victoria, British Columbia for the opening of the Commonwealth Games. She put her personal mark on Annapolis Royal when she stitched in gold thread near the heart on the image of her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria. A piece of the tapestry was taken to Government House in Halifax where Her Majesty graciously put in her gold stitches and signed Fort Anne's book.

The Diamond Jubilee of The Prince of Wales' great-great-great Grandmother, Queen Victoria, was celebrated on the grounds of Fort Anne in 1897 as depicted in the photo of children dancing around the Maypole. One of the Diamond Jubilee events in 2012 for Prince Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was also held at Fort Anne. A special reception was hosted at the Hillsdale House Inn for The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal by Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's representative in the province.

His Royal Highness' great-grandfather, Prince George of Wales, later His Majesty King George V, stayed at the Hillsdale House when he visited Annapolis Royal in 1884 while serving in the Royal Navy. He came for a four-day fishing trip. His Royal Highness signed the guest book, and the room in which he resided is coveted today by everyone who stays at the Hillsdale House Inn, 130 years later.

Prince Charles' brother, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, visited Annapolis Royal in 1985 on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Parks Canada and did a walk about the grounds of Fort Anne.

The Prince of Wales' aunt, Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, visited Annapolis Royal in 1957 and signed the guest book at St. Luke's Anglican Church. As Heir to The Throne, Prince Charles will become the Head of The Church of England. The first Church of England service celebrated in Canada was held on the Fort Anne grounds in Annapolis Royal in October 1710.

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